

# Grace Church Visitor

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FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

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## A New Year Message

(By Robt. Thena)

The passing of the old year with its sorrows, its failures and what might have been has ushered in the new with its joys, its aims and aspirations. The new year stands at our threshold wishing for us Heaven's gifts of richest treasure-hopes, golden purposes for the adornment of personal character.

New Year! Welcome, thou! Herald of the Great King! Come in! The air is resonant with good wishes. A Happy New Year is the children's greeting. Lips tremulous with age utter it. Sick rooms are cheered by it. The world is brighter for it.

The old year is behind us. One blessing is that our sins may be cast into oblivion. It is the duty and privilege of the true child of God to forget them. Let it not be said that we have forgotten to forget. Let us be like Paul—"Forgetting those things which are behind, I press on." Amidst the oppressive realities of the present there comes to the listening ears of God's children the same "still, small voice" heard by his servant Elijah on Mount Horeb.

God's message has ever been a challenge to the pilgrim pointing him on to a new and better world. The prophets dreamed it, the Christ taught it and the apostles proclaimed it.

Jesus drew men to follow. He has been speaking year by year. Do you hear the call? Arise and follow on. Do not say "I cannot." Be honest and say "I will not." You can obey if you will. Your destiny may be in this hour. "Now" is a little word. The battlefield of Waterloo was only twenty acres, but it settled the destiny of nations.

How often we have heard it said "I have not seen the old home since my childhood and never expect to see it again." Like Abraham we are standing with our backs to the past and are looking toward an unknown land. We shall never pass this way again. Undoubtedly our duty lies in the future and our forward look must be upon that goal which the Lord has set before us. May that race be run with the consciousness that He is leading.

## 1918 in the Sunday School

(By W. F. Close, Supt.)

The year that has just closed has been the most successful the school has had. We have been most wonderfully blessed in all of our undertakings. We were able to accomplish a great deal and we believe we have wielded an influence for good. Our membership was largely increased—about 100 new scholars and many old ones brought back—our attendances have been remarkably large and our finances most excellent, for all of which we are exceedingly thankful.

A new year now stands before us with its challenge, calling upon us to do our duty. What will the answer be twelve months from now? How will we have conducted our school and classes and what will we have accomplished? How many new scholars brought in? How many added to the church? What shall we have done for those about us? These and many others are our opportunities. Will we rise to them with a firm determination to accomplish the greatest possible amount of good during 1918?

## The Annual Meeting

Owing to the unfavorable weather on January 1 the annual meeting was postponed until Sunday afternoon, January 6, and although the weather was most disagreeable a goodly number were present and the meeting proved to be the most interesting and enthusiastic held in many years. The discussion of the various church interests was spirited but in the feeling of the utmost good fellowship and harmony.

The reports of the various secretaries and treasurers indicated that 1917 was by far the most prosperous year the church has ever enjoyed, every department showing a larger activity and closing the year with a balance in the treasury which in some cases though small indicated the meeting of its obligations in full.

The election resulted as follows: Elders, George M. Shiffer and Henry P. Dinger; deacons, Charles H. Gumpfer and John Ruck.

These officers will be installed very soon and the newly organized consistory will then make appointment of the financial secretary and treasurer.

The work of the new year starts off under most favorable conditions and it is planned to do some big things in Grace Church in 1918.

## The Every-member Canvass

The severe blizzard on December 9th made it necessary for us to postpone the canvass and it was, accordingly, held on December 16th. While we did not have teams of men enough to carry out the work as planned by giving some canvassers two routes we were able to cover all of the territory except the country visits, the snow making driving in the country almost impossible. Every man who took part in the canvass is firmly convinced that it was a good thing, not only for the pledges secured, but for the feeling that prevailed and the spirit of co-operation that was manifested everywhere.

A goodly number of the members rec-

ognizing the necessity for increased revenue raised the amounts of their pledges. Some were not ready to pledge when the canvassers called and to all such we would say, please let us have your definite pledge just as soon as possible, so that we may know what we can depend upon.

At the congregational meeting held in Grace Church January 6th it was ordered that at the end of the present calendar year the consistory should publish in printed form the financial status of the congregation, including the record of each member's contributions to the church treasury. Notice is hereby given at this early date to enable each member to bear this in mind during the year. When the year has ended this will be one way by which we can determine if the year has been one in which we have grasped or failed to grasp our opportunities. Our pledges are sacred. We can be true to ourselves only by fulfilling our obligations. A portion of the upkeep of God's work naturally and justly falls upon each member. You have the whole year in which to keep your record clear.

Mrs. G. M. Shiffer is playing the pipe organ at the Crescent Avenue Evangelical Church during the month of January, and if other work permits she may fill the position indefinitely.

The installation of Rev. George Wm. Wolf as pastor of Zion's Reformed Church, Millersburg, Ind., took place January 2d under the direction of Rev. Schaaf. We unite in our joy that the Millersburg flock is again to be shepherded and in our well wishes to both pastor and people.

The Christmas entertainment held on Sunday evening, December 23d, at 7 o'clock was one of the most enjoyable and largely attended of any we have ever held and the visit of Santa Claus with a treat for every child in the audience was a fitting climax to the evening's pleasures.

### In Memoriam

It was indeed with pointed sorrow that the news was borne to the members of Grace Church of the death of Mrs. Valentine Monn. Sickness had claimed her for some weeks and at last human resistance became too feeble. She departed this world on the 29th day of December. For almost a half century she had been the devoted wife of Mr. Valentine Monn, and her sweet Christian spirit had left its impress upon all her children. In the affairs of the kingdom of Christ Jesus she showed unflinching interest. To her the Holy Word was light and life. Faithful ever in her duties at Grace Church, she will be missed in all our activities. Her life was an example to all; her departure leaves a void. The better world seems nearer and dearer because of her. "Precious in the sight of God is the death of his saints." N. H. S.

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On January 4th the pastor conducted the funeral services of Mrs. Mary C. Fairbanks, nee Sievers, from the home of a brother, Mr. Louis Sievers, at 652 High street. Condolences are extended to the bereaved.

\* \* \*

On December 29th the pastor officiated at the funeral of Mr. Ralph B. Cort. Mr. Cort was the son of Rev. Dr. Cyrus L. Cort, of Overlea, Md.—a venerable father who for more than a half century has been a minister of the Reformed Church. It was indeed with an appreciation of the honor conferred that the ministry of our faith was extended the bereaved family in their hour of sorrow.

Our Christmas exercises under the direction of Miss Ruth Gummer were indeed a success. We extend a word of appreciation to all who took part and especially to Miss Gummer for her time and effort.

### Financial Secretary's Letter

To the Members of Grace Church:

The annual statements have been sent out and if there are any differences do not hesitate to call attention to them.

The important thing that just now confronts us is the support of the church for 1918. If every member could and would realize his or her duty to the church this need not concern us so much. The constitution of the church says EVERY MEMBER shall contribute according to his ability, and if you have not done this in the past start now, for we must have the support of every member.

Many more of our young people should be regular contributors. Any young man or woman who is earning money can contribute to the church, and if you are one who is not, get a carton of envelopes and start NOW, TODAY. It will be a blessing to you.

Wishing everyone a Happy, Prosperous New Year and with the hope that 1918 will be Grace Church's best year, I am, most sincerely yours,

W. F. CLOSE

### Men's Senior Bible Class

The December meeting was held at the home of the teacher, Mr. John Sessler. Chairmen for the various standing committees were announced as follows: Executive, Ed Close; devotional, Henry Koepf; membership, John Ruch; social, H. E. Metzner. The next meeting will be at the home of Bro. E. A. Close in Penn Place.

### Zwinglian Class

The class on December 18 at the home of Mrs. Gooley elected the following officers for 1918: President, Mrs. H. Dinger; vice-president, Mrs. Kanning; secretary, Mrs. Ruck; treasurer, Mrs. Gooley. Arrangements were also made to present a small gift to each woman of the Martha Sewing Circle at the City Mission.

Mr. Robert Thena, of McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, was the holiday guest of the pastor.

## GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

Published monthly by the Young Men's Agenda Class.

George M. Shiffer.....Editor-in-Chief  
E. W. Baumgartner.....Business Manager  
Subscription price, 25 cents a year.

The Christmas season brought to the pastor many expressions of the good will of his people. For all and to all he says a grateful "Thank you."

### Progreda Echoes

The Progreda business meeting was held at the home of the Misses Gooley on Masterson avenue Tuesday evening, December 18. After the business session the time was spent in filling candy boxes for the Christmas entertainment. Later in the evening a fine luncheon was served.

The Progreda Class in a humble way wanted to bring gladness into the hearts of someone at Christmas time, and a box containing thirty-eight pairs of hosiery and one hundred and fifty Christmas cookies was sent to Rev. Stucki in charge of an Indian mission in Wisconsin. Our wishes are that all at this mission will spend a Merry Xmas and a prosperous New Year.

The Heidelberg Glee Club rendered a very acceptable concert in Grace Church on the evening of December 26.

The Blue Bird Class opened their "Blue Bird Box" and found it contained \$5.00, with which they bought books for the orphans. Miss Ruth More is teacher of this class of wide-awake girls.

The following interesting figures regarding the Sunday School were brought out at the congregational meeting:

Enrollment January 1, 1917.....	203
Enrollment December 31, 1917....	268
Net gain December 31, 1917.....	65
Total attendance for year.....	8,383
Total visitors for year.....	385
Average attendance per week....	161
Average offering per week.....	\$7.36

### Heidelberg Happenings

We are glad to have the members back in the class again who have been the victims of smallpox. Mrs. Monn and Mrs. Merrilet came back on the same Sunday and received a hearty welcome from all.

The last class meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Fossler on Oakland street. This was a very interesting meeting, and much business was transacted. At this time the quilt materials for Mrs. Hoy's sewing class in the Chinese Mission were assembled, and a committee appointed to send the same to her.

### True Blue Notes

The November class meeting was held at the home of Leona Botteron. At this meeting the election of officers took place and after the meeting we had our usual good time. The officers elected for the coming year are as follows:

President—Esther Bitner.

Vice-president—Helen Weikert.

Secretary—Leona Botteron.

Treasurer—Lucretia Warcup.

Reporter—Agnes Riley.

The December class meeting was held at the home of Helen Weikert. Two new members joined us—Miss Bessie Kreager and Miss Bessie Noble. The business session was made very short that we might enjoy the Christmas party prepared for us. After enjoying games, very dainty and excellent refreshments were served and all was in harmony with the spirit of Christmas.

The January meeting will be held at the home of Miss Esther Bitner, 519 East Lewis street.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Mrs. D. S. Dorman, who was formerly Miss Margaret Ginther, of our class.

Miss Margaret Sorgen spent Sunday, December 1, with her parents in Kenton, O.

Mrs. Knight, of Randolph street, spent Thanksgiving with her son, John Knight, and family in Richmond, Ind.



## THE LADIES' WORK

### Woman's Work

Let the women of Grace Church use the following beautiful verse as a motto for the coming year:

"Be strong, we are not here to play  
To dream, to drift.

We have work to do and loads to lift.

Shun not the struggle, face it.  
'Tis God's work. Be strong; be strong."

### A Summary

Our opportunity for service has never been greater than at the present time. The avenues for actual work are open wider today than they have ever been before; therefore, it behooves every member of Doremus Guild to be wide awake, as these different opportunities present themselves. It would mean far greater service for Grace Church if we would enlist every woman member of it in line with the coming activities. For we know, during these strenuous war times, not a moment must be wasted.

Woman's work has been so beautifully exemplified by our Savior in His teachings, and may we not follow Him just a little closer, for we have His assurance of our reward in Heaven for our faithfulness to Him.

Let us show others the "Way of the Cross."

The year just past has been a most encouraging one for our guild. While God, in His infinite mercy, has seen fit to take to Himself three of our faithful workers—Mrs. Waite, Mrs. Wertman and Mrs. Monn—we still have a membership of 57. Twelve of this number united in 1917.

Friends have been greeted upon leaving the service every Sunday by a hearty handshake from a member of our guild and those of you who have been so unfortunate as to be ill have had a message from us through one of God's greatest gifts to man—"a flower."

The 719 calls made have certainly been a stimulant to better fellowship.

Our committees have all served cheerfully and faithfully. The sewing committee have helped many a housewife in the making of nineteen beautiful quilts.

The treasurer reports receipts of over \$750.00 for the year; \$60.00 of our \$100.00 pledge to the new Y. M. C. A. is paid. The contract entered into with Bursley & Co. for the five-gallon coffee urn expired on December 5th, and we rejoice to announce the 4,500 checks are paid in full. Many of our women have contributed toward the war fund of the Y. W. C. A. and they have given from their abundance to Hope Hospital. So you see, dear friends, what united effort will do. Every little gift of talent, time, money and service bestowed in the right direction will surely return to us increased a hundred-fold.

E. G.

The officers elected at the annual meeting of Doremus Guild are as follows:

President—Mrs. Chas. N. Gumpfer.

Vice-president—Mrs. Frank Leikauf.

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. W. F. Close.

Recording Secretary—Miss Anna Doermer.

Treasurer—Mrs. J. Straub.

The following committees were appointed by the president:

Executive—Mesdames H. Dinger, John Schneider, Henry Kessler, William Siebold, J. A. Woolard.

Sewing—Mrs. John Ruch, Mrs. Riley, Mrs. Schneider, Mrs. Bitner.

Flower—Mrs. Ed Close, Mrs. D. F. Knott, Mrs. Jesse Benton.

Membership—Mrs. Clippinger, Mrs. Will Hildebrand, Mrs. George Hessert, Mrs. Kanning, Mrs. Carl Kessler, Miss Anna Doermer.

Resolutions—Miss Anna Doermer, Mrs. Ernest Close, Mrs. J. Straub.

Reporter for The Visitor—Mrs. Harry Metzner.

(Continued from Page 5.)

The result of the Thanksgiving service held in November was very gratifying. Total offering received amounted to \$66.58.

The Doremus Guild wishes to thank everyone who was instrumental in making the recent bazaar such a great success. The total receipts were \$235.61.

Monthly meeting of Woman's Missionary Society Thursday afternoon, January 17, at the home of Mrs. C. H. Gumpfer, 1209 West Wayne street.

Social afternoon January 24 at the home of Mrs. Jack Straub, 734 Archer avenue. Assisting hostesses will be Mesdames Campbell, Mullen, Walters, Kronemiller, Keller, James Smith, Ed Siebold, Clarence Potts, Sam Fredrick. Ladies will please all come prepared to sew for the Red Cross.

Section No. 1 will serve supper on Thursday evening, February 7, from 5 to 8 o'clock. Managers—Mrs. Frank Leikauf, Mrs. John Schneider, Mrs. H. P. Dinger, Mrs. J. W. Brewer. Assistants—Mesdames Frank Moore, O. Snook, Charles Rogers, John Sessler, William Kroener, Birdie Shunk, Mary Gooley, S. D. Zeis, David Copenhaver, I. Clippenger, Catharine Romy, Robert Gavin, A. M. Henderson, D. H. Wilbert, R. F. Dinger, Victor Guebner, Margaret Boger. May Schaick, Lenora McAfee, W. E. Adams, Harvey Bryant, D. Baltzell, Lee Heller, and the Misses Lulu Putt, Vera Sessler, Ruby Zeis, Helen Zeis, Hazel and Loretta Gooley, Margaret Sorgen. An excellent supper is planned and you and your friends are cordially invited to be present.

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### C. E. Topics for January

January 13—"Reaching Upward"—Psa. lxiii:1-8; leader, Ray Deahl.

January 20—"Reaching Outward"—Gal. vi:1-10; leader, May Siebold.

January 27—"Christian Endeavor Goals"—Rom. xii:1-13; leader, Alma Ruck.

### Christian Endeavor Notes

At the first executive meeting of the Christian Endeavor Society for the year 1918 the following committees were appointed:

Prayer Meeting Committee—Chairman, Helen L. Trisch; assistants, Esther Bitner, Clarence Aiken.

Lookout Committee—Chairman, Ernest Baumgartner; assistants, Mildred Wertman, Mabel Weikart.

Missionary Committee—Chairman, Bertha Weikart; assistants, Leona Bot-tener, Lulu Bitner.

Whatsoever Committee—Chairman, Hazel Gooley; assistants, Elsie Weikart, Mrs. Clarence Aiken.

Social Committee—Chairman, Mrs. Ernest Baumgartner; assistants, May Siebold, Ray Diehl, Helen Zeis, Herbert Ruch, Ruby Zeis, Helen Weikart, Loretta Gooley.

Efficiency Committee—Chairman, Elma Ruch; assistant, Agnes Riley.

Plans for the work of the coming year were also discussed. As this is the beginning of a new year, it is hoped that every Endeavorer will resolve to do the work he is appointed for to the very best of his ability. With every member doing his best we should make this the most successful year Christian Endeavor in Grace Church has ever known.

Thanking the Christian Endeavorers in advance for the hearty co-operation we know they will give us, we remain,  
Sincerely,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF C.E.

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